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Scientific and Technical Intelligence Report

Recent Egyptian Chemical Warfare Actions in Yemen

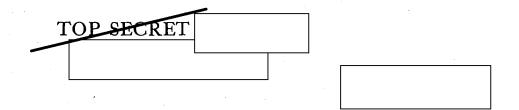
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Scientific and Technical Intelligence Report

RECENT EGYPTIAN CHEMICAL WARFARE ACTIONS IN YEMEN

Project Officer	

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Brief

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PREFACE

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RECENT EGYPTIAN CHEMICAL WARFARE ACTIONS IN YEMEN

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Although short lulls in CW activity have occurred, to date Egypt shows no sign of stopping its use of toxic agents. World publicity, including the statement by the International Red Cross, has not changed the Egyptian position on use of CW. Egypt appears to believe that these agents are an effective way of combatting the guerrilla tactics of the Royalists.

Egypt continued use of toxics through 5 June, the date on which the Arab-Israeli war began. From 7 June to until 1 July, no instance of toxic employment is known, although Egyptian commanders in Yemen requested use of chemicals on several occasions. From 1 through 23 July, however, nine chemical bombing attacks were made. Use of chemicals was suspended then, possibly due to the conference of Arab foreign ministers in early August in Khartoum, Sudan. Since the close of the conference, permission again has been sought by field units for chemical use, and on 11 August a possible chemical attack was made.

These attacks were made while Egypt was mobilizing for war with Israel. Chemical munitions reportedly were being stored in the Sinai, although Israel

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has officially denied finding them. Some forces were being withdrawn from Yemen for use in the Israeli campaign, and it is possible that the chemical attacks were used to compensate for the manpower reduction. That this is not the complete answer, however, is suggested by frequent chemical attacks staged prior to this troop movement.

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Release on 2 June of the International Red Cross report on the bombings has had no effect on Egyptian employment of toxics although a lull occurred between the 23 July attacks and the possible 11 August attack. This was concurrent with a general lull in military activities in Yemen and may have been connected with an attempt to settle the conflict at the conference of Arab foreign ministers in Khartoum in early August. A conference of Arab heads of state, wherein one topic will be consideration of means for settlement of the Yemen conflict, is now scheduled for 29 August.

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